

HOUSE BILL 1059

G2, L5

2lr0630

By: **Prince George's County Delegation and Montgomery County Delegation**

Introduced and read first time: February 10, 2022

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

Committee Report: Favorable

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 7, 2022

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Bicounty Commissions – Ethics – Certification of Compliance**

3 **PG/MC 103–22**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring each bicounty commission to certify to the Ethics Commission
5 that the bicounty commission is in compliance with requirements relating to conflicts
6 of interest, financial disclosure, and lobbying; providing that regulations adopted by
7 a bicounty commission relating to lobbying may be modified to make the regulations
8 relevant to the bicounty commission; and generally relating to bicounty commissions
9 and ethics.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
11 Article – General Provisions
12 Section 5–823, 5–829, and 5–830
13 Annotated Code of Maryland
14 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

15 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
16 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

17 **Article – General Provisions**

18 5–823.

19 (a) Each bicounty commission shall adopt regulations relating to conflicts of

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 interest of its employees.

2 (b) At a minimum, the conflict of interest standards applicable to public officials
3 under Subtitle 5 of this title shall apply to the employees of each bicounty commission.

4 (c) Each bicounty commission shall file with the Ethics Commission a copy of its
5 regulations relating to conflicts of interest.

6 (d) On or before April 30 each year, each bicounty commission shall:

7 (1) (I) prepare an annual report on its conflict of interest issues and
8 regulations during the previous calendar year;

9 [(2)] (II) submit the report to the governing body of each county in which
10 the bicounty commission operates; and

11 [(3)] (III) publish the report on the website of the bicounty commission;

12 AND

13 (2) CERTIFY TO THE ETHICS COMMISSION THAT THE BICOUNTY
14 COMMISSION IS IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SECTION.

15 5–829.

16 (a) Each bicounty commission shall adopt regulations relating to financial
17 disclosure by its employees.

18 (b) The regulations required by this section:

19 (1) shall be substantially similar to the State financial disclosure
20 provisions of Subtitle 6 of this title; and

21 (2) may not conflict with the financial disclosure provisions for
22 commissioners and applicants specified in §§ 5–824 through 5–828 of this subtitle.

23 (c) Each bicounty commission shall submit the regulations adopted under this
24 section, and any amendments to the regulations, to:

25 (1) the Ethics Commission; and

26 (2) the governing body of each county in which the bicounty commission
27 operates.

28 (D) ON OR BEFORE APRIL 30 EACH YEAR, EACH BICOUNTY COMMISSION
29 SHALL CERTIFY TO THE ETHICS COMMISSION THAT THE BICOUNTY COMMISSION IS
30 IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SECTION.

1 5-830.

2 (a) Each bicounty commission shall adopt regulations relating to lobbying of that
3 bicounty commission.

4 (b) [At a minimum, the] **THE** regulations adopted by a bicounty commission:

5 (1) **AT A MINIMUM**, shall be similar to the provisions of Subtitle 7 of this
6 title; **BUT**

7 (2) **MAY BE MODIFIED TO THE EXTENT NECESSARY TO MAKE THE**
8 **REGULATIONS RELEVANT TO THE BICOUNTY COMMISSION.**

9 (c) Each bicounty commission shall submit to the Ethics Commission a copy of its
10 regulations relating to lobbying.

11 (d) On or before April 30 each year, each bicounty commission shall:

12 (1) (I) prepare an annual report on the lobbying before the bicounty
13 commission and regulation of that lobbying by the bicounty commission for the previous
14 calendar year;

15 [(2)] (II) submit the report to the governing body of each county in which
16 the bicounty commission operates; and

17 [(3)] (III) publish the report on the website of the bicounty commission;
18 **AND**

19 (2) **CERTIFY TO THE ETHICS COMMISSION THAT THE BICOUNTY**
20 **COMMISSION IS IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SECTION.**

21 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
22 October 1, 2022.

Approved:

Governor.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.

President of the Senate.